



**US Army Corps
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St. Paul District

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Public Affairs

Corps Facts

Baldhill Dam Pool Raise

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FS-35

Baldhill Dam is located in southeastern North Dakota along the Sheyenne River, approximately 12 miles north of Valley City, N.D. Baldhill Dam was originally constructed in 1950 as a multipurpose project for water supply, pollution abatement and flood control. The Baldhill Pool Raise project consists of replacing the existing spillway gates, allowing the dam to store up to 5 feet more water in the reservoir during major floods; acquiring 1,500 acres of flowage easement around Lake Ashtabula and 300 acres for a mitigation area; raising lands and buildings at the Wesley Acres Church Camp; and constructing several small levees and placing fill near structures around the reservoir. The pool will be raised only during floods, providing a significant reduction in flood damages to downstream communities such as Valley City. The project resulted in no permanent increase in the storage of water behind Baldhill Dam.

Outcome

The old gates provided up to 39,600 acre-feet of flood control storage during the springtime. The new gates provide an additional 30,700 acre-feet of storage. Not only do the new gates significantly increase the volume of flood storage during the spring, the additional 30,700 acre-feet of storage can be used to attenuate floods during the summer. Baldhill Dam previously had no flood control capacity during the summer. The lake level will not be permanently raised as a result of this project. During normal operation there will be no change from previous lake levels. During large flood events, the lake level can reach an elevation of 1,271, five feet higher than the normal operating level. This is only expected to happen, on average, once in 20 years.

Status

The Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and the Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District, or SRJWRD, signed a project cooperation agreement on May 31, 2000. The first construction contract, for replacement of the existing spillway gates, was completed in June 2002. Contracts for construction of small levees and other forms of protection for houses around the reservoir and creating a mitigation area were completed in October 2002. A construction contract for protection of the Wesley Acres Church Camp was completed in June 2004. Completion of this construction, along with near completion of the acquisition of flowage easements around the reservoir by the sponsor, enabled the dam to provide the added flood protection in 2004. The project is mostly complete, except for the final surveying and monumentation.

Project Sponsor

The Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District is composed of representatives from the following seven water resource districts along the Sheyenne River: Southeast Cass, Barnes County, Griggs County, Nelson County, Ransom County, Richland County and Steele County.